

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and examination of all of the claims on the merits are respectfully requested in light of the Remarks which follow.

Claims 87-136 are now in this application.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Claims 87-106, drawn to an epidermis equivalent.

The restriction requirement is traversed because it is not believed that the product as claimed could be made by a materially different process, or that the process as claimed could be used to make a materially different product. Therefore, the inventions are not distinct. Further, the inventions are not independent, as they are clearly related as process and product made. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are believed to be in order and are respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner does not withdraw the restriction requirement, she has indicated that if she finds a product claim subsequently allowable, she will rejoin process claims that depend from or otherwise include all of the limitations of the patentable product. The current process claims are commensurate in scope with the product claims. If the restriction requirement is maintained, it is applicants' intention to amend the process claims as necessary during prosecution so that they continue to include all of the limitations of the product claims.

In view of the foregoing, examination of all of the claims on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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